



IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method in a computer of for collecting product data, comprising the computer implemented steps of:
generating a profile identifying a given site URL, an item to be queried, and a scan interval;
on a periodic basis as defined by the scan interval, retrieving data from the given site URL; and
parsing the retrieved data according to a site template to generate a data record comprising an item name and an associated price value.
2. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of storing the data record.
3. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of:
comparing the associated price data to a given threshold condition; and
taking a given action if the price data has a given relationship to the given threshold condition.
4. (Original) The method as described in Claim 3 wherein the given action is selected from the actions consisting essentially of issuing an e-mail notification, logging an event, and initiating an e-commerce transaction.
5. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of collecting associated price data for the item name over a given period of time to produce historical price data.
6. (Currently amended) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the profile includes matching criteria that must be met for the item name.
7. (Original) The method as described in Claim 7 wherein the matching criteria is an exact match.
8. (Original) The method as described in Claim 6 wherein the matching criteria is a fuzzy match.

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9. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the data record also includes secondary source information.
10. (Original) A method of collecting product data, comprising the steps of:
generating a set of product profiles, each identifying a given site URL, a list of one or more included items to be queried, a scan interval, and a site template;
for a given product profile, periodically retrieving data from the given site URI, according to the scan interval;
parsing the data retrieved from the given site URL according to the site template to generate a data record for each included item comprising an item name, an associated price value, and a secondary source; and
storing the data records.
11. (Original) The method as described in Claim 10 wherein the given product profile also includes a list of excluded items.
12. (Original) The method as described in Claim 10 wherein the given product profile also includes a next scan date.
13. (Original) The method as described in Claim 12 wherein the given product profile also includes a threshold expression comprising a set of one or more triggers.
14. (Original) The method as described in Claim 13 wherein the given product profile also includes a threshold action that is triggered if the threshold expression resolves to a given value.
15. (Original) A computer program product having a set of instructions executable by a processor for use in a client computer for collecting product data according to the following method steps:
generating a set of product profiles each identifying a given site URL, a list of one or more included items to be queried, a scan interval, and a site template;
for a given product profile, periodically retrieving data from the given site URI, according to the scan interval; and



parsing the data retrieved from the given site URL according to the site template to generate a data record for each included item comprising at least an item name and an associated price value.

16. (Original) A computer program product in a computer-useable medium, comprising:
- code for generating a profile identifying a given site URL, at least one item to be queried, a scan interval, and a site template;
 - code for retrieving data from the given site URL at the scan interval; and
 - code for parsing the retrieved data according to the site template to generate a data record comprising an item name and an associated price value.
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Claims 17-20 (canceled)